

in the House to support the Global Warming Education Act.

# TRIBUTE TO MAN MINH PHAN

## HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose life has touched many people in San Rafael, California. Man Minh Phan, known as Mr. Man, is receiving the 2007 Citizen of the Year award from the city for his outstanding community activism in the Canal neighborhood. This area has a large immigrant population, including 500 Vietnamese-Americans, endeavoring to assimilate into our country's culture.

Now 73-years-old, Mr. Man is a former South Vietnamese army officer who immigrated with his wife to the United States in 1990 after 6 years of imprisonment in a communist re-education camp and another 8 years waiting for relocation. They joined his son, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, who had arrived in San Rafael a year earlier after escaping Vietnam by boat. Mr. Man also has two daughters who live in Vietnam.

During his 16 years in the Canal area, Mr. Man has been active in organizing and teaching classes in citizenship as well as Vietnamese (for the children) and English as a Second Language (to help adults). He founded the Vietnamese-American Friendship Group, serves on the Advisory Board of the local Pickleweed Park Community Center, leads the Canal Beautification Project, served on the Marin County Sheriff Advisory Board, and helps organize the annual Tet New Year festival.

But these descriptors do not do justice to the man who is the very heart of his neighborhood, a man who works tirelessly and enthusiastically for his community. Often referred to as the "Angel of the Canal," Mr. Man is everywhere, offering a helping hand to anyone who needs it. His neighbors in the Canal understand that his classes are a place to bring people together, not just to learn languages. He is not paid for his teaching and lives simply, relishing the opportunity to give back for the freedom he enjoys here.

Mr. Man also gives to his homeland. He is known for his habit of picking up recycling on the streets, with the proceeds sent to the needy in Vietnam, from wartime amputees to orphans—"whoever wrote me a letter," he says. Others have been inspired to join him in the collection to add to the amounts he can provide.

Madam Speaker, Man Minh Phan's activism and spirit inspire all of us. His own words sum up what our country is about: "I was asked what we need, and I said the most important need is freedom. Freedom is the top of my life."

REMEMBERING SERGEANT  
NICHOLAS J. LIGHTNER

## HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask this chamber to pause today and reflect upon the life of Sergeant Nicholas J. Lightner, United States Army.

Nicholas served proudly with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the famed 1st Cavalry Division.

Sergeant Lightner was known by his peers as a tough soldier; to his men he was known as the kind of leader that people followed. He set an example of courage and valor that will stand the strains of memory and time.

For much of his twenty-nine years, Nicholas Lightner wore the uniform of our country because he believed there was no higher calling.

He took his profession seriously, and Sergeant Lightner reflected great credit upon himself, the Army, and the State of Oregon.

Sadly, Sergeant Lightner died just a few days ago, just a few miles from the Capitol at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Most of his patrol perished in the attack on March 15, 2007. Nicholas Lightner survived Baghdad, and fought for his life with the same bravery he showed in the field. But the wounds were too severe; his devotion to duty ultimately was paid in full with his last measure.

I am here today to ask us all to remember. Remember the sacrifice of those we send onto foreign soil for our benefit; to pledge to ourselves and to the families forever altered by this sacrifice that they will not have perished in vain.

America is a great nation: great, because it is defended by volunteers that answer the call of service and stand in our stead; great, because our values are important enough to the men and women of our Armed Forces that they willingly sacrifice their sweat, their labor, and sometimes their lives.

Nicholas Lightner died because he took upon himself the burden of protecting the Nation, State, and community he loved. Newport, Toledo, in fact all of Oregon, are now forever less than we would have been had Nicholas survived.

Let us begin anew to dedicate ourselves to a cause that Nicholas Lightner believed in; let us begin today.

## SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

SPEECH OF

## HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ for arranging this time on the floor for us to celebrate World Social Work Day and to acknowledge the contributions of social workers to the well-being of our society.

I'm proud to say that I'm a social worker and that my predecessor, former Congress-

man and now mayor of Oakland, Ron Delums, was also a social worker. I believe our records, interests and efforts here in Congress and outside reflect the influence of our social work background. This education has helped me to form my principles and has helped me to fight injustice and inequality, not just here in the U.S. but also abroad.

Social workers make a difference in people's lives everyday and at all levels. They're in the streets working one-on-one with the homeless. They're in the hospitals and clinics helping people through their health crises. They're in the schools making our kids safe, adjusted, and prepared to take on the world. They're advocating for the rights of our country's most vulnerable citizens—our children, the elderly, the mentally ill, the poor, and others in our society that may not have a strong voice. They're fighting for social justice and human rights internationally and they're creating policies and programs here in the halls of both the Congress and the Senate that address the needs of our society.

The hallmark trait of a social worker is their ability to empathize—their ability and willingness to put themselves in someone else's place. This is not always an easy thing to do. Many times social workers encounter people who are in extreme states of crisis. Times when their lives are feeling out of control. It's no easy feat to step into someone else's nightmare and help them find the strength to cope, to problem-solve, and to move forward. But this is what social workers do on a daily basis.

Nonetheless, there are also times that are incredibly heartening and rewarding—times that renew your faith in humanity. They are the times when you see the first trusting smile on the face of a child that came from the chaos of an abusive home and you feel that connection. They are the times when you're able to help a family—homeless and devastated by the ravages of a massive natural disaster. They are times when the grassroots movement you've been working with is able to achieve its goal. They're the times when you're able to help a young man who seemed like he was starting down the path to a life of crime to find a better road and to make better decisions.

One of the ways that I think I've best used my social work education has been in the work I have done here in Congress. As a social worker, I am concerned about the many things that ail our community as a whole. That is why I have made the fight against AIDS a priority—not just domestically, but also abroad. We need to stop crimes against humanity, like the genocide that continues to ravage the Darfur region. I also believe we need to fully fund No Child Left Behind. Our education system is failing—No Child Left Behind is failing our children, our teachers, our parents, and our community as a whole.

Recognizing the importance that social workers bring to our schools, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored H.R. 171, the Student Support Act. I hope more of my colleagues will consider supporting this legislation, which helps ensure that our schools have the necessary amount of mental health professionals at their schools, including school social workers, school psychologists, counselors and psychiatrists. Almost all States fall below the recommended guidelines by the American Counseling Association of 1 counselor for every